

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 12-21, 28 and 29 are pending in the application. Claims 1-10 and 12-21 are rejected. Claims 28 and 29 are allowed. Claim 6 is objected to but would be allowable. Applicants have amended claim 1 to better define the invention over the prior art and have amended claim 6 to place the claim into allowable form by incorporating the limitations of parent claims 1 and 5. On the basis of the amendments made and the following argument, all of the pending claims should be patentable.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-10 and 12-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

The Examiner comments that the phrase “said surface” at line 11 is indefinite. Applicant has amended the claim to expressly recite that the inner peripheral surface is intended.

The Examiner also objects to the word “distal” as being applied to both ends of components in claims 5, 6 and 8. Applicant respectfully submits that the definition of “distal” is “situated away from the point of attachment or origin or a central point.” The latter reference is intended. Moreover, this is consistent with use in the specification. However, if the Examiner requires a change, the word “axial” could also be used.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Adamietz et al (6,814,550). This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

In framing the rejection at page 4, lines 10-17, the Examiner equates a single element in Adamietz, namely the vibration absorber 7, which comprises a concentric arrangement of a suspension body 8 and absorber jacket 9, to be the claimed first and second nested structure. In the present invention, the bellows 253 and vibration damper 250 in Figs. 3 and 5 form only one of the first and second nested structures, while the other nested structure is a rigid structure 240

or bellows 248. Clearly, this is different from the teachings in Adamietz alone or together with the AAPA,

Applicants amended claim 1 to clarify this distinction. On the basis of this clear difference, claim 1 should be allowable. In addition, there is no teaching or suggestion that the suspension body may be a bellows, nor is there any teaching that there may be another damping structure, particularly one that absorbs both compression and extraction forces, as in Fig. 6.

Finally, those claims that depend from claim 1 should be allowable.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 5, 7-10, 12-21 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Applicants admitted prior art (Figs. 1 and 2), referred to as (APA) in view of Adamietz.

First, it appears that the Examiner erroneously included claim 29 in the listing of claims subject to rejection because the claim, and its parent 28, are found to be allowable.

Second, with respect to the remaining claims, particularly claim 1, the added limitations to claim 1 would not be obvious over Adamietz alone or in combination with the AAPA. In short, Adamietz simply teaches a single vibration absorber structure, not two separate and nested structures. The Examiner has dissected that single structure to assert that there are two nested structures, 8 and 9. Applicant is defining a single one of the nested structures to have the concentric arrangement of a bellows and absorber.

Nowhere in Adamietz or the AAPA is there a teaching of two nested structures, one of which would have two concentric members comprising a bellows and an absorber.

On the basis of the foregoing analysis with respect to Adamietz alone, Applicants would respectfully note that the claims have been amended in a manner that distinguishes over prior art in Figs. 1 and 2 as well as Adamietz. There is no teaching or suggestion in Adamietz that first and second nested structures, as now defined, can be used with a turbo pump. Moreover, there is

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no teaching or suggestion in the APA that plural nested support and vibration suppression structures can be used.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowance of claims 28 and 29. Applicants have amended claim 6 to be in independent form, thereby securing its allowability,

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

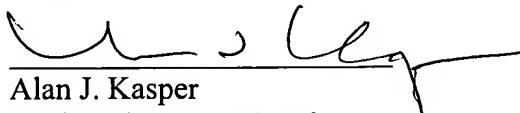
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